



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER  
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR A CENTRALIZED  
A SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT  
FRAMEWORK

RECEIVED

AUG 16 2004

GROUP 3600

Appl. No.: 09/816,455

Filing Date: 03/23/2001

Examiner: Florian M. Zeender

Art Unit: 3627

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

08/13/2004 EABUBAK1 00000009 09816455

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180.00 DP

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.113, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

All of the documents are in English.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

**FEE**

A fee in connection with submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c) in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) is attached.

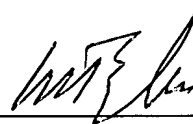
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 12, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP  
Customer Number: 22428  
Telephone: (202) 672-5485  
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By



William T. Ellis  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 26,874

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Substitution for form 1449B/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> Date Submitted: _____ (as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 1 of 3		<b>Complete if Known</b>		<b>RECEIVED</b> AUG 16 2004 <b>GROUP 3600</b>
		Application Number	09/816,455	
		Filing Date	March 23, 2001	
		First Named Inventor	George H. Hoffman	
		Group Art Unit	3627	
		Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender	
		Attorney Docket Number	062834-0204	

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		5,204,821		Inui et al.	04-20-1993	
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 Examiner  
Signature

 Date  
Considered

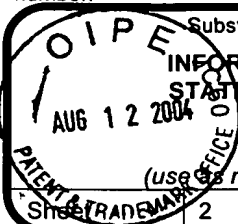
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<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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		Filing Date	March 23, 2001	
		First Named Inventor	George H. Hoffman	
		Group Art Unit	3627	
		Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender	
		Attorney Docket Number	062834-0204	

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>
		Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 422-519	
		Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 592-601	
		PR Newswire: Andersen Consulting Announce Strategic Alliance, Looksmart, September 6, 2000	
		Stephanie Stahl, "A Whopping Inventory Task – Burger King's purchasing agency lures suppliers online to streamline its huge distribution system", INFORMATIONWEEK, 1994	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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		John Rendleman, "Burger King Orders AT&T Mail Service", CommunicationsWeek, 1994.	
		Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition, Microsoft Press, 1999, pages 167, 242, 334, 421, 443, 444 and 462	
		Information on Deal Time International, 1999-2002, printed through www.archive.org	
		Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition; 1997; Microsoft Press; pages 355 and 463	
		Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary; 10 <sup>th</sup> Edition; 1996; page 139.	

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